

CLAIMS

1. A content management apparatus which manages a content stored in a portable medium, the apparatus comprising:
 - a content storage unit operable to store a content;
 - 5 a backup unit operable to (i) duplicate a content stored in the first portable medium into the content storage unit and (ii) associate the content with a medium identifier of the first portable medium, and store the associated information into a management table inside the content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backed up into the content storage unit;
 - 10 a restore unit operable to (i) duplicate the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (ii) replace the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and
 - 15 a management table processing unit operable to transmit, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.
- 25 2. A content management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein in the case where a medium identifier of the portable medium is stored in the management table, the portable medium storing the content that the reproduction apparatus attempts to reproduce, the management table processing unit transmits, to the reproduction apparatus, the reproduction judgment information indicating a permission for reproducing the content.

3. A content management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the reproduction judgment information is the management table.

5 4. A content management apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the management table processing unit (i) transmits the management table to the reproduction apparatus, and (ii) stores, into a management table storage unit, transmission completion information indicating that the management table has been 10 transmitted, and

only in the case where the transmission completion information is not stored in the management table storage unit, the restore unit duplicates the content duplicated in the content storage unit into the second portable medium.

15 5. A content management apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the transmission completion information is the reproduction apparatus identifier.

20 6. A content management apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein in the case where the reproduction apparatus informs that the management table is not necessary, the management table processing unit deletes the transmission completion information stored in the management table storage unit.

25 7. A content management apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a clock showing time, wherein in the case where the reproduction apparatus requests transmission of the management table, the management 30 table processing unit stores, into the management table storage unit, an expiration time of the management table to be transmitted, and in the case where time shown by the clock exceeds the

expiration time, the management table processing unit deletes the transmission completion information stored in the management table storage unit.

5 8. A reproduction apparatus which reproduces a content stored in a portable medium, the apparatus comprising:

10 a request unit operable to request, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

15 a reception unit operable to receive the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus;

20 and
a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the content only in the case where the reproduction judgment information received by the reception unit indicates a permission for reproducing the content.

25 9. A content management method which manages a content stored in a portable medium, the method comprising:

(a-i) duplicating a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (a-ii) associating the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and storing the associated information into a management table inside the content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backed up into the content storage unit;

30 (b-i) duplicating the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (b-ii) replacing the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management

table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and

transmitting, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction

5 judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

10 10. A reproduction method for reproducing a content stored in a portable medium, the method comprising:

requesting, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the 15 content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

receiving the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

20 reproducing the content only in the case where the received reproduction judgment information indicates a permission to reproduce the content.

11. A program for managing a content stored in a portable 25 medium, the program causing a computer to execute:

(a-i) duplicating a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (a-ii) associating the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and storing the associated information into a management table inside the content 30 management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backed up into the content storage unit;

(b-i) duplicating the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (b-ii) replacing the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the 5 case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and transmitting, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction 10 apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

12. A program for reproducing a content stored in a portable medium, the program causing a computer to execute:

15 requesting, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content 20 is stored;

receiving the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

25 reproducing the content only in the case where the received reproduction judgment information indicates a permission to reproduce the content.

13. A computer-readable storage medium in which a program for managing a content stored in a portable medium is stored, the program causing a computer to execute:

30 (a-i) duplicating a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (a-ii) associating the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and storing the

associated information into a management table inside a content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backed up into the content storage unit;

5 (b-i) duplicating the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (b-ii) replacing the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second portable medium; and

10 transmitting, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

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14. A computer-readable storage medium in which a program for reproducing a content stored in a portable medium is stored, the program causing a computer to execute:

20 requesting, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

25 receiving the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

30 reproducing the content only in the case where the received reproduction judgment information indicates a permission to reproduce the content.

15. An integrated circuit which manages a content stored in a

portable medium, the circuit comprising:

a backup unit operable to (i) duplicate a content stored in a first portable medium into a content storage unit and (ii) associate the content with a medium identifier of a first portable medium, and
5 store the associated information into a management table inside the content management apparatus, in the case where the content stored in the first portable medium is requested to be backed up into the content storage unit;

10 a restore unit operable to (i) duplicate the content duplicated in the content storage unit into a second portable medium and (ii) replace the medium identifier of the first portable medium stored in the management table with a medium identifier of the second portable medium, in the case where the content duplicated in the content storage unit is requested to be restored into the second
15 portable medium; and

20 a management table processing unit operable to transmit, to a reproduction apparatus, reproduction judgment information which is based on the management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the reproduction apparatus attempting to reproduce the content stored in the portable medium.

16. An integrated circuit which reproduces content stored in a portable medium, the circuit comprising:

25 a request unit operable to request, to a content management apparatus, transmission of reproduction judgment information which is based on a management table, for judging a permission to reproduce the content, the content management apparatus storing the management table in which an identifier associated with the content is stored;

30 a reception unit operable to receive the reproduction judgment information from the content management apparatus; and

a reproduction unit operable to reproduce the content only in the case where the reproduction judgment information received by the reception unit indicates a permission for reproducing the content.